Revenue earned by Doordarshan

3790. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the revenue earned by Doordarshan from sponsored television serials 'Ramayana', 'Bahadurshah Zafar', 'Manoranjan' till this date;

(b) what was the revenue earned from television serial 'Buniyad'; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to telecast any serial on Mahabharata and the life of Gautam Buddha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The gross revenue earned by Doordarshan from sponsored Television serials 'Ramayana', 'Bahadur Shah Zafar' and 'Manoranjan' upto 31st October, 1987 is approximately Rs. 9.33 Crores (for 38 episodes), Rs. 40 Lakhs (for 9 episodes) and Rs. 1.98 Crores (for 10 episodes) respectively.

(b) The gross revenue earned in connection with telecast of 104 episodes of the serial 'Buniyad' was Rs 9.92 Crores approximately.

(c) Doordarshan has given concept approval for production of a sponsored serial on 'Mahabharata'. There is, however, no proposal to produce any serial on 'Gautam Buddha'.

Views of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission on Doordarshan

3791. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the views of the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission that Doordarshan is in the grip of 'a powerful commercial consumerists lobby' and has become a medium catering mainly to the entertainment needs of urban middle classes, ignoring the interest of vast section of the society;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government to the views and suggestions made by the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission in this regard; and

(c) whether Government have taken any action on the suggestions made by the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The views expressed by the former Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission have been noted. However, the planning of programmes and their contents is done by Doordarshan independently without being influenced by any outside lobby Doordarshan takes into consideration the interests and the needs of all sections of the society. The business houses, as advertisers, have no say in the planning and production of Doordarshan programmes.

Implementation of Five Point Programme

3792 SHRI RAMSINGBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether various State Governments have taken steps to keep the prices under control as per Five-Point Programme drawn out by the Central Government;

(b) what are the details of the said Five-Point Programme;

(c) the details of the guidelines drawn out and sent to the various States in this regard;

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by each State in the matter; and

(e) what is the out come thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K L BHAGAT): (a) to (e) In order to keep prices of essential commodities under check and improve their availability, Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies is implementing alongwith State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, a five-pronged plan of action as under:—

(1) Opening of new outlets under the Public Distribution System, particularly in the drought affected areas;

(2) Adequate allocation and proper distribution of essential commodities.

(3) Effective monitoring and supervision of the PDS.

(4) Strict enforcement action to prevent boarding, blackmarketing, speculation etc.; and

(5) Keeping a watch on the price situation and holding dialogues with representatives of trade and industry for self-discipline and voluntary containment of prices.

The Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Food and Civil Supplies has written several letters to Chief Ministers of States and Lt. Governors of Union Territories urging them, among other things, to closely monitor prices and availability of essential commodities, monitor and review the working of the Public Distribution System (PDS) by forming Committees at various levels, arranging distribution of certain essential commodities through the network of cooperative outlets, opening new outlets under the Public Distribution System (particularly in the drought affected areas), strict enforcement of the relevant provisions of Essential Commodities Act and similar legislations to prevent hoarding, blackmarketing etc, and holding dialogue with representatives of trade and industry for self-discipline and voluntary containment of prices The State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have generally taken steps as suggested by the Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Food & Civil Supplies. As regards the outcome of various measures taken, mention may be made of increased off-take of foodgrains, imported edible oils etc. from the PDS, more vigorous enforcement of various provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and similar legislations and containment of rise in prices of various essential commodities

Supply of Foodgrains and Edible Oil to Gujarat

3793. SHRI RAMSINGBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 79 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th November, 1987 and state what were the total requirements of foodgrains and edible oil of Gujarat during the last three years and the quantum supplied during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): The information is given in the two statements I and II.